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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 COLOMBO 000147

SIPDIS

STATE ALSO PASS TO USAID  
STATE FOR TSUNAMI TASK FORCE 1  
USAID/W FOR A/AID ANDREW NATSIOS, JBRAUSE  
DCHA/OFDA KISAACS, GGOTTLIEB, MMARX, RTHAYER, BDEEMER  
AID/W FOR DCHA/OFDA  
TSUNAMI RESPONSE MANAGEMENT TEAM

SIPDIS  
DCHA/FFP FOR LAUREN LANDIS  
DCHA BUREAU FOR ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR ROGER WINTER  
ANE DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR MARK WARD  
BANGKOK FOR OFDA SENIOR REGIONAL ADVISOR TOM DOLAN  
KATHMANDU FOR OFDA REGIONAL ADVISOR WILLIAM BERGER  
GENEVA FOR USAID KYLOH  
ROME PASS FODAG  
NSC FOR MELINE  
CDR USPACOM FOR J3/J4/POLAD  
USEU PASS USEC

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [FAID](#) [AEMR](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [CE](#) [MV](#)

SUBJECT: MALDIVES - EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMIS:  
USAID/DART SITREP #2

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SUMMARY  
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1. According to the Maldives National Disaster Management Center (NDMC), as of January 18, the earthquake and tsunamis killed 82 people and 26 residents are missing. A key priority is to re-equip and repair health centers. The U.S. Military's primary objective in Maldives is to provide potable water to Laamu and Dhaalu Atolls, benefiting approximately 14,500 people. Psycho-social support is being provided on 62 islands in 14 atolls. The USAID/Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) reported that there are currently 6,678 people displaced in Maldives, and infrastructure damage assessments have been completed on 68 islands. The World Bank, in conjunction with other organizations, conducted an assessment and concluded that the earthquake and tsunamis caused the greatest damage in the tourism, housing, and fishing sectors in Maldives. End summary.

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Death Tolls  
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2. According to the NDMC, as of January 18, the earthquake and tsunamis killed 82 people and 26 residents are missing.

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Current Situation and Needs  
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3. The USAID/DART Field Officer (FO) in Male', Maldives (FO) reported that rehabilitation and reconstruction is underway, and the priority is on targeting assistance. General relief distributions are not required. The USAID/DART FO noted that at the present, the key issue is to re-equip the health sector, including infrastructure repairs and the acquisition of equipment. The Government of the Republic of Maldives' (GORM) long-standing strategy to consolidate the population of Maldives on a more limited number of islands must be harmonized with a quote safe islands end quote analysis. This quote safe islands end quote initiative will include the relocation of people and construction of mitigation infrastructure.

4. The USAID/DART FO stated that despite difficulties, shipments of relief supplies are being transported; however, greater inter-sectoral coordination is necessary to plan transport and ensure maximum efficiency.

5. The Ministry of Social Security is providing cash grants to people who sustained damage to their properties based upon three tiers: whether their houses were completely destroyed and there was loss of all property; partially destroyed and loss of all property; or sustained minimal damage, with loss of most essential items.

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Coordination with U.S. Military  
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16. The USAID/DART FO has been coordinating extensively with the U.S. Military to facilitate the U.S. Military's mission in Maldives. The primary objective of the U.S. Military mission is to provide potable water to the following atolls/islands that were prioritized by the GORM: Isdhoo, Kalaidhoo, Gan, Fonadhoo, Mundoo, Dhanbidhoo, and Maabaidhoo in Laamu Atoll, as well as, Kudahuvadhoo, Gemendhoo, Vaanee, Rinbudhoo, Maaenboodhoo, and Hulhudheli in Dhaalu Atoll. The U.S. Military's mission will serve approximately 14,500 people.

17. According to the USAID/DART FO, two marine pre-positioning vessels are estimated to arrive in Maldives on January 20. The vessels will travel directly to Laamu Atoll and will not come to Male'. The USAID/DART FO reported that in the water and sanitation sector, water storage on the islands is a bigger problem than water production.

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Health  
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18. The Ministry of Health (MOH) has prepared a list of health centers that require equipment and repairs. The USAID/DART FO reported that there are no significant health problems, and a disease surveillance system is in place to monitor the outbreaks of communicable diseases and respond to emergency health needs.

19. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), American Red Cross, and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are providing psycho-social support on 62 islands in 14 atolls. The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) will be providing additional personnel to work on the psycho-social issue. The Ministry of Education has also requested training for teachers in psycho-social support.

110. The USAID/DART FO reported that corpses are washing ashore in Maldives from Sri Lanka, and this has raised concerns in the Maldivian population about the safety of fish consumption. WHO, in conjunction with the MOH, is working on an information campaign to counteract this misperception about the safety of fish consumption.

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Shelter  
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111. The USAID/DART FO met with a member of the World Bank assessment team. The World Bank's focus in Maldives is short-term needs, housing construction, and the continuation/acceleration/expansion of a quote safe islands end quote initiative.

112. The USAID/DART FO reported that there are currently 6,678 people displaced in Maldives, down from 15,000 displaced residents post-tsunami. To date, infrastructure damage assessments have been completed on 68 islands. The USAID/DART FO reported that geologic studies are required as settling of the ground is occurring.

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Communications and Electricity  
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113. The USAID/DART FO reported that two islands are currently without communications. In the electricity sector, 11 Royal Navy engineers are partnering with the Maldivian State Electric Company to repair 16 generators on several islands that were damaged by the earthquake and tsunamis. The IFRC has supplied 17 generators, and 14 have been dispatched to the islands. IFRC will also provide seven additional generators.

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Education  
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114. According to the USAID/DART FO, the earthquake and tsunamis destroyed 20 percent of 322 primary schools.

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Repairs are currently underway in seven schools. The USAID/DART FO noted that 80 percent of teachers are expected to be available for the beginning of the school year on January 25, and textbook distribution is expected to be completed by January 23.

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Joint World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB),  
U.N., and Japan Bank for International Cooperation  
(JBIC)  
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15. The WB, ADB, U.N., and JBIC recently conducted a joint mission to assess the damage caused by the tsunami and evaluate recovery needs. According to the

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assessment, total damages are estimated to range from USD 345 million dollars to USD 385 million, close to 55 percent of gross domestic product. The assessment team estimated that direct damage is USD 244 million, and the remaining amount is indirect damage. The biggest losses were in the tourism, housing, and fishing sectors. Employment in Maldives has been adversely affected by the low tourism occupancy rates, and the loss of fishing vessels, equipment, and agricultural lands.

16. According to the preliminary assessment, the earthquake and tsunamis completely destroyed 1,700 houses and partially damaged 3,000 houses.

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